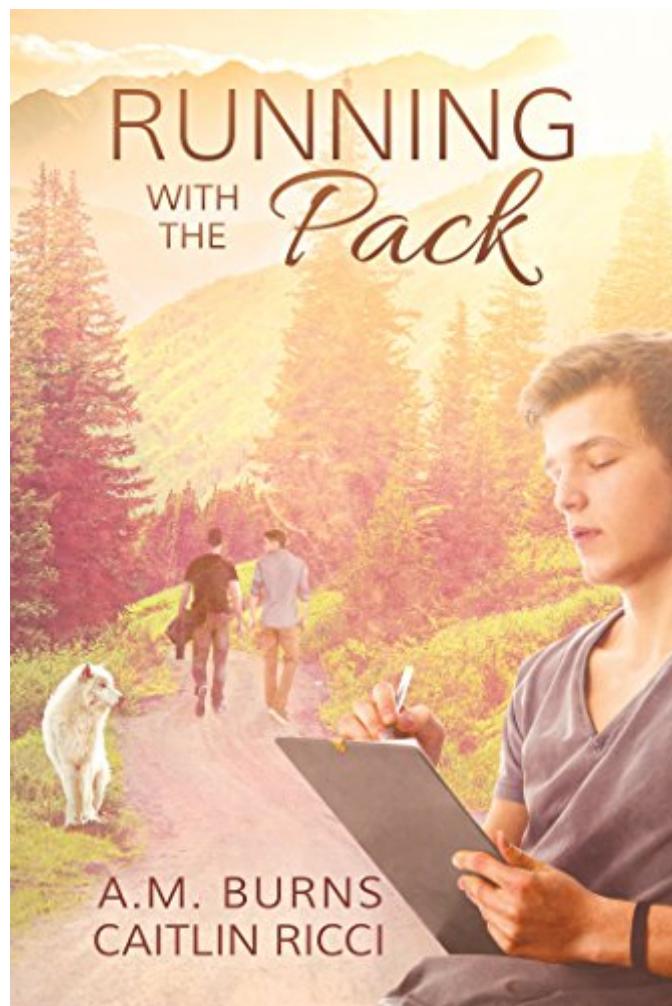


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# Running With The Pack



## **Synopsis**

When Finn Ryanâ™s family moves from Austin, Texas, to quiet Woodland Park, Colorado, the summer before his senior year, Finn struggles to adjust. Even the altitude is hard to get used to. But when he meets Ivan Dubovasky at a farmersâ™ market, all that changes. Finn begins volunteering at Ivanâ™s family business, High Mountain Wolf and Wild Dog Center, where he forms a bond with both Ivan and the wolves they protect. Soon Ivanâ™s best friend, Adrian, whoâ™s asexual, joins their small pack, and the three of them become inseparable, even after Ivan and Finn begin datingâ™until a bullyâ™s torment of Adrian goes too far. When Adrian disappears, Ivan and Finn will do anything they can to rescue their boyfriend, including relying on a special wolf to bring Adrian home.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

3.5 STARS This was a very sweet and easy read, however it felt somewhat incomplete. Running With the Pack is the tale of three high school friends who find themselves becoming much more than just that, in small town Colorado. The primary setting of this story is the Wolf Center, run by

Ivan's family. The setting was unique and snagged my interest instantly. I must admit, that it was kind of surprising to read a book involving wolves that didn't magically shift into humans. What a novel concept! The wolves played enough of a role in the plot that they became more than just a cute backdrop, which I appreciated. I do prefer that authors actually tie such a setting into the story rather than simply mentioning it and that's all we ever hear. The fact that the story was set in a small town without making the main conflict small-town-homophobia was refreshing. The story had huge potential to morph into a big steaming pile of angst, but instead from beginning to end, the characters seemed to be living in a Disney movie. Ok, a gay *ménage* Disney movie—but they've finally branched out from lily-white princesses, so you never know what they might release next. But what I mean is, aside from the *baddies* (who really weren't all that bad) everything was sunshine and rainbows for these three boys. No one blinked at the fact that they were gay. No one was offensively curious about Adrian being asexual. Not one parent had a problem with their son becoming involved in a threesome. And you know what, I'm aware that I might sound like I'm mocking this story, but to tell the truth, I adored it with my whole fairytale loving heart. However, some conflict was definitely required. Even the dramatic climax was more of a fizzle than a bang. I really do hope that the authors choose to continue the story of Finn, Adrian and Ivan. The dynamics of them being together as a threesome was never actually explored. A friend threesome, yes, but not the three of them together in a relationship. The added element of Adrian's asexuality, and the fact that he's only a teen who is still deciding just what elements of a sexual nature he may be interested in, could make for an extremely insightful read, if done well. I think that that's why this story felt incomplete to me. I needed to see the boys work through the sexual aspect together, even if any sex scenes were off page. I did like this book. I dare say I will reread it at some point when I need to reach for something that is light and sweet. But I wasn't excited by it. What did excite me, was the potential for a sequel, which I hope the authors see themselves to write. Original review posted at Love Bytes Same Sex Book Reviews

This isn't a badly written book but what I have to say about it is pretty much all said in the title, however, I'll elaborate a little. The guys aren't really inseparable, and their relationship is accepted a little too quickly, conveniently and pat by one lot of parents, and yet the other two lots of parents' opinions don't get given the light of day. Yes, it was a YA book, and yes, I liked that the guys got acceptance, but I didn't buy the surrealism of it all. ARC courtesy of Harmony Ink Press and NetGalley for my reading pleasure.

I was given a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. This was different. Good different. I assumed with the title, and with the cover, that this book was about shifters. You know, werewolves, etc., but it's not. I think about half of the book could have been removed and it wouldn't have changed the story in any meaningful way. It's obvious that the writers did their research in the climate of the states, and the raising of wolves, and the type of paint used oil vs acrylic and whatever, but none of that had the slightest hint of anything to do with the actual story. That story is about one kid who moves from Texas into a colder climate, meets two guys he thinks are in a relationship already, and decides to join in. Except, one of them is Ace (asexual). Now hold on, here's where it gets stupid. I have met Aces before. They have zero interest in anything physical. Like, at all. Male, female, plastic, it doesn't do a thing for them. But the Ace presented here is a delicate little flower who is adoringly in love with the bigger, buffer dude who raises wolves on his family's property. It goes on at length (and really, far too long) describing exactly how in love he is with the others. One of whom he's known for 14 days. Frankly, if you'd hooked up a generator to my eyeballs, the number of times they rolled could have powered a small city. And that's where I'm conflicted. It's very well written. But, it's overwritten. It's at least two stories in one. One of them is really good. The other should be excised and sent back to the nether regions from whence it came. I liked a lot of it. I thought the idea of three guys in a relationship was a novel idea, not something we run into every day. It didn't need to go overboard after that.

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. I have some issues with this book but I still think its existence is important. It is the first book I've ever read with poly and asexual representation. And I dug that aspect. But the thing described IN THE DESCRIPTION doesn't even happen until the book is almost over. The writing as a whole, seemed somewhat immature. I was shocked to find out that both authors have written other books. And honestly, it was pretty unbelievable. onto the bullet points:-Characters: I didn't really have an issue with any of the characters. Even the bully wasn't all that bad to be honest. He was definitely a jerk, but mild compared to say, the bullies in *We Are the Ants*.-Plot: The plot was silly and kind of unbelievable. But queer folks deserve to have the silly and unbelievable romances too, so I can look past it.-Romance: The romance was cute, but like I've already said, completely unbelievable.-Diversity: I'm pretty sure everyone was white? I'm actually not sure if it was specified. But there is a gay character, and an ace character. And a poly relationship. And I personally think one of the characters is Bi, but it wasn't stated on the page. All in all, it wasn't an awful read. It was just a little silly. But I

think the way asexuality was portrayed was very positive. and same goes for poly relationships.

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